

THE SCHOOL WORLD

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TERMS:

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INTRODUCTION.

FROM the editorial matter of "Letters and Addresses of Abraham Lincoln," the following paragraphs seem to form an appropriate introduction to the selections given :

"To-day Lincoln's position as a master of the English tongue in its strength and simplicity is unquestioned. The French Academy, Emerson, Lowell, Everett, Beecher, Ingersoll, great orators and critics of England and America, are united on that point. No man of his century could state a proposition with more exactness and compactness. His clarity of expression, the consistent building up of his argument, his brilliantly apt comparisons, his illuminating wit, his merciless pursuit of illogic in his opponents, his reserve and his dignity would be remarkable in a mind highly trained, and in this untaught son of the wilderness became phenomenal. The Peoria address, the debates, the letters to Greeley, to McClellan, to Conklin, are models in their way. Equally noticeable is his instinct for words, his choice of the simple, the descriptive, the musical. The inaugurals, the Gettysburg address (ranked by Emerson as the peer of any of the utterances of man), the Springfield farewell, illustrate this side of his genius.

"But no criticism, no analysis, can give life to these addresses as can the vision of the man who uttered them—of the towering gaunt figure, ill-dressed, uncouth, yet glorified with the dignity of earnestness. Those who heard him say that he was often nervously awkward on rising to speak but

soon forgot himself in his subject. He would toss back his head and show his figure, seemingly expanded beyond its lank proportions, at the extent of its gigantic height. He used his hands little but would sweep his arm through the air with an occasional splendid gesture. His rough dark face would shine and his gray eyes flash with eloquence or twinkle with humor. Competent judges rank him with Clay and Webster for force and magnetism. Such was Lincoln the orator."

LINCOLN'S FIRST SPEECH.

MR. LINCOLN was a candidate for the legislature in 1832, and at New Salem, Illinois, he is said to have delivered his first political speech, in March of that year. When this speech was delivered, Lincoln was only twenty-three years of age. In this contest he was defeated, but it was his only defeat by a direct vote of the people.

Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say, for one, that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow-men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem. How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition is yet to be developed. I am young, and unknown to many of you. I was born, and have ever remained, in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relations or friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclu-

sively upon the independent voters of the country ; and, if elected, they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But, if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined.

HIS POLITICAL CREED.

UNDER date of June 13, 1836, there appeared in the Sangamon Journal, of New Salem, Illinois, a letter from Mr. Lincoln, in which he responds to a call from the various candidates "to show their hands." This letter shows how completely he believed in equal rights and justice to all :

I go for all sharing the privileges of the government who assist in bearing its burdens. Consequently, I go for admitting all whites to the right of suffrage, who pay taxes or bear arms (by no means excluding females).

If elected, I shall consider the whole people of Sangamon my constituents, as well those that oppose as those that support me.

While acting as their representative, I shall be governed by their will on all subjects upon which I have the means of knowing what their will is ; and upon all others I shall do what my own judgment teaches me will best advance their interests.

“HUG IT ALL THE TIGHTER.”

AGAIN you say, you much fear that the elysium of which you have dreamed so much is never to be realized. Well, if it shall not, I dare swear it will not be the fault of her who is now your wife. I now have no doubt that it is the peculiar misfortune of both you and me to dream dreams of elysium far exceeding all that anything earthly can realize. Far short of your dreams as you may be, no woman could do more to realize them than that same black-eyed Fanny. If you could but contemplate her through my imagination, it would appear ridiculous to you that any one should for a moment think of being unhappy with her. My old father used to have a saying that “If you make a bad bargain, hug it all the tighter;” and it occurs to me that if the bargain you have just closed can possibly be called a bad one, it is certainly the most pleasant one for applying that maxim to which my fancy can by any effort picture.—*From letter to Joshua F. Speed.*

YOUNG AMERICA.

THE following selections are made from an address delivered by Mr. Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, and other towns in 1859 and 1860: .

We have all heard of Young America. He is the

most current youth of the age. Some think him conceited and arrogant; but has he not reason to entertain a rather extensive opinion of himself? Is he not the inventor and owner of the present, and sole hope of the future? Men and things, everywhere, are ministering unto him. Look at his apparel, and you shall see cotton fabrics from Manchester and Lowell; flax linen from Ireland; wool cloth from Spain; silk from France; furs from the Arctic region; with a buffalo robe from the Rocky Mountains, as a general outsider. At his table, besides plain bread and meat made at home, are sugar from Louisiana, coffee and fruits from the tropics, salt from Turk's Island, fish from Newfoundland, tea from China, and spices from the Indies. The whales of the Pacific furnish his candle-light, he has a diamond ring from Brazil, a gold watch from California, and a Spanish cigar from Havana. He not only has a present supply of all these, and much more; but thousands of hands are engaged in producing fresh supplies, and other thousands in bringing them to him. The iron horse is panting and impatient to carry him everywhere in no time; and the lightning stands ready harnessed to take and bring his tidings in a trifle less than no time.

He owns a large part of the world, by right of possessing it, and all the rest by right of wanting it, and intending to have it. As Plato had for the immortality of the soul, so Young America has a "pleas-

ant hope, a fond desire—a longing after ” territory. “ He has found a new passion—a perfect rage—for the new ; ” particularly new men for office, and the new earth mentioned in the Revelations, in which, being no more sea, there must be about three times as much land as in the present. He is a great friend of humanity ; and his desire for land is not selfish, but merely an impulse to extend the area of freedom. He is very anxious to fight for the liberation of enslaved nations and colonies, provided, always, they have land, and not any liking for his interference. As to those who have no land, and would be glad of help from any quarter, he considers they can afford to wait a few hundred years longer. In knowledge he is particularly rich. He knows all that can possibly be known : inclines to believe in spiritual rappings, and is the unquestioned inventor of “ Manifest Destiny.” His horror is for all that is old, particularly “ Old Foggy.”

If the said Young America really is, as he claims to be, the owner of all present, it must be admitted that he has considerable advantage of Old Foggy. Take, for instance, the first of all fogies, Father Adam. There he stood a very perfect physical man, as poets and painters inform us, but he must have been very ignorant, and simple in his habits. He had no sufficient time to learn much by observation, and he had no near neighbors to teach him anything. No part of his breakfast had been brought from the

other side of the world ; and it is quite probable he had no conception of the world having any other side. In all these things, it is very plain, he has no equal of Young America ; the most that can be said is, that according to his chance he may have been quite as much of a man as his very self-complacent descendant. Little as what he knew, let the youngster discard all he has learned from others, and then show, if he can, any advantage on his side. In the way of land and live-stock, Adam was quite in the ascendant. He had dominion over all the earth, and all the living things upon and round about it. The land has been sadly divided out since ; but never fret, Young America will re-annex it yet. . . .

What one observes, and would himself infer nothing from, he tells to another, and that other at once sees a valuable hint in it. A result is thus reached which neither alone would have arrived at. And this reminds me of what I passed unnoticed before, that the very first invention was a joint operation, Eve having shared with Adam the getting up of the apron. And, indeed, judging from the fact that sewing has come down to our times as "woman's work," it is very probable that she took the leading part,—he, perhaps, doing no more than to stand by and thread the needle. That proceeding may be reckoned as the mother of all "sewing-societies," and the first and most perfect "World's Fair," all inventions and all inventors then in the world being on the spot.

ACCEPTS THE NOMINATION.

WHEN Mr. Lincoln was informed of his nomination as President by the Chicago Convention, May 19, 1860, he sent the following reply :

I tender to you, and through you to the Republican National Convention, and all the people represented in it, my profoundest thanks for the high honor done me, which you now formally announce. Deeply and even painfully sensible of the great responsibility which is inseparable from this high honor—a responsibility which I could almost wish had fallen upon some one of the far more eminent men and experienced statesmen whose distinguished names were before the convention—I shall, by your leave, consider more fully the resolutions of the convention, denominated the platform, and without any unnecessary or unreasonable delay, respond to you, Mr. Chairman, in writing, not doubting that the platform will be found satisfactory, and the nomination gratefully accepted.

And now I will no longer defer the pleasure of taking you, and each of you by the hand.

AT INDEPENDENCE HALL.

ON the way to Washington the Presidential party visited Philadelphia, where a public reception was given on February 22, 1861. There were at this time rumors that the President-

elect would be assassinated on his way to Washington before the inauguration. Mr. Lincoln was called upon and urged by his friends to proceed at once to Washington and thus elude those whom they thought they had reason to fear. But he had promised to raise a flag over Independence Hall on Washington's Birthday, and he had promised to visit Harrisburg the next day. He would consent to nothing that interfered with this plan, and on that day, for the first time, he stood in Independence Hall, and these are the words he uttered in the presence of an immense crowd assembled in the square in front of the Hall :

I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live. You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to our distracted country. I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments that I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated in and were given to the world from this hall. I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted that Declaration. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this confederacy so long together.

It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land, but that sentiment in that Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Now, my friends, can this country be saved on that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it. Now, in my view of the present aspect of affairs, there is no need of bloodshed and war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course; and I may say in advance that there will be no bloodshed unless it is forced upon the government. The government will not use force, unless force is used against it.

My friends, this is wholly an unprepared speech. I did not expect to be called on to say a word when I came here. I supposed I was merely to do something toward raising the flag. I may, therefore, have said something indiscreet. [Cries of "No, no."] But

I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and if it be the pleasure of Almighty God, to die by.

LET THE GRASS GROW WHERE IT MAY.

JUST after Mr. Lincoln's arrival in Washington the members of the Peace Conference, then in session in that city, called upon Mr. Lincoln at Willard's Hotel. Among others presented to Mr. Lincoln was William E. Dodge, a wealthy and influential merchant of New York. Mr. Dodge then asked the President-elect :

"Is the nation, Mr. Lincoln, to be plunged into bankruptcy? Is the grass to grow in our streets?"

"If it depends upon me, the grass shall not grow anywhere except in the fields, where it ought to grow," was the reply.

"Then you will permit the South to control our institutions?"

"I do not know that I quite understand you. I do not know what my acts or opinions may be in the future. If I ever come to the great office of President of the United States I shall take an oath to the best of my ability to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. This is a great and solemn duty. With the support of the people and the assistance of the Almighty I shall undertake to perform it. I have full faith that I shall perform it. It is not the Con-

stitution as I would like to have it, but as it *is*, that is to be defended. The Constitution will not be preserved and defended until it is enforced and obeyed in every part of every one of the United States. *It must be so respected and defended, let the grass grow where it may.*”

“WE CANNOT SEPARATE.”

IN his first inaugural address Mr. Lincoln made a review of the political events that brought about his election to the high position he was qualifying for on the day of its delivery. He made a strong plea for the Union, and showed how hopeless in a republican government was any effort of the minority to rule. The address as a whole is one of his best. It dwelt almost entirely upon the state of the nation and his duty as President. The closing paragraphs only are given here.

Physically speaking, we cannot separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an imperishable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced, and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other; but the different parts of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face, and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them. Is it possible, then, to make that intercourse more advantageous or more satisfactory after separation than before? Can aliens make treaties easier than friends can make laws? Can treaties be more

faithfully enforced between aliens than laws can among friends? Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical old questions as to the terms of intercourse are again upon you.

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it. I cannot be ignorant of the fact that many worthy and patriotic citizens are desirous of having the National Constitution amended. While I make no recommendation of amendment, I fully recognize the rightful authority of the people over the whole subject, to be exercised in either of the modes prescribed in the instrument itself; and I should, under existing circumstances, favor rather than oppose a fair opportunity being afforded the people to act upon it. I will venture to add that to me the convention mode seems preferable, in that it allows amendments to originate with the people themselves, instead of only permitting them to take or reject propositions originated by others not especially chosen for the purpose, and which might not be precisely such as they would wish to either accept or refuse. I understand a proposed amendment to the Constitution—which amendment,

however, I have not seen—has passed Congress, to the effect that the Federal Government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of the States, including that of persons held to service. To avoid misconstruction of what I have said, I depart from my purpose not to speak of particular amendments so far as to say that, holding such a provision to now be implied constitutional law, I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable.

The chief magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have conferred none upon him to fix terms for the separation of the States. The people themselves can do this also if they choose; but the executive, as such, has nothing to do with it. His duty is to administer the present government as it came to his hands, and to transmit it, unimpaired by him, to his successor.

Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world? In our present differences is either party without faith of being in the right? If the Almighty Ruler of Nations, with his eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal of the American people.

By the frame of the government under which we live, this same people have wisely given their public

servants but little power for mischief ; and have, with equal wisdom, provided for the return of that little to their own hands at very short intervals. While the people retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration, by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years.

My countrymen, one and all think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any of you in hot haste to a step which you would never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time ; but no good object can be frustrated by it. Such of you as are now dissatisfied, still have the old constitution unimpaired, and, on the sensitive point the laws of your own framing under it ; while the new administration will have no immediate power, if it would, to change either. If it were admitted that you who are dissatisfied hold the right side in the dispute, there is still no single good reason for precipitate action. Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.

In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors.

You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect and defend it."

I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as they surely will be, by the better angels of our nature.

LINCOLN WOULD SAVE THE UNION.

AMONG other things in which Mr. Lincoln replied to an article by Horace Greeley that appeared in the New York Tribune, he wrote under date of August 22, 1862, these words :

I would save the Union. I would save it in the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored, the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not

either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views.

I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free.

NANNY GOAT IS LOST.

NANNY GOAT was one of the White House pets, and during the absence of the family in August, 1863, she disappeared. Mr. Lincoln in a letter to his wife informed her of the loss. Tad was the pet name given to the President's son.

All as well as usual, and no particular trouble anyway. I put the money into the Treasury at five per cent., with the privilege of withdrawing it any time

upon thirty days' notice. I suppose you are glad to learn this. Tell dear Tad poor "Nanny Goat" is lost, and Mrs. Cuthbert and I are in distress about it. The day you left, Nanny was found resting herself and chewing her little cud on the middle of Tad's bed; but now she's gone! The gardener kept complaining that she destroyed the flowers, till it was concluded to bring her down to the White House. This was done, and the second day she had disappeared and has not been heard of since. This is the last we knew of poor "Nanny."

MR. LINCOLN MEETS DAVIS'S COMMISSIONERS.

IN his intercourse with men Mr. Lincoln was a remarkable man. He had his own ideas of right and wrong, and strong convictions as to his duty. The arguments of those who wished to influence him were often completely wiped out by his matter-of-fact logic. He saw the weak points at once, and many a time a story of his, of which he had an abundant store, would climax his argument. Some of these stories were exceedingly funny, but there was never any doubt of their application.

The story of his interview with the commissioners sent by Jefferson Davis in the winter of 1865, deserves a place in the present collection.

Near the close of the war Jefferson Davis appointed a Commission to meet President Lincoln, or his representatives, with the view of effecting peace. Mr. Davis instructed the commissioners "to proceed to Washington City for informal conference upon the issues involved in the existing war, and for the purpose of securing peace to the two countries."

The President commissioned Secretary Seward to meet the Confederate commissioners. In his letter of instruction he wrote: "The following things are indispensable: First, The restoration of the national authority throughout all the States.

"Second, No receding by the executive of the United States on the slavery question from the position assumed thereon in the late annual message to Congress, and in preceding documents.

"Third, No cessation of hostilities short of an end of the war, and the disbanding of all forces hostile to the Government. You will inform them that all propositions of theirs, not inconsistent with the above, will be considered and passed upon in a spirit of sincere liberality; you will hear all they may choose to say, and repeat to me; you will not assume to definitely consummate anything."

At the same time, by special messenger, he sent the following instruction to General Grant: "Let nothing which is transpiring change, hinder, or delay your military plans."

The commissioners arrived at General Grant's headquarters and were furnished comfortable quarters on board one of his dispatch boats. Grant was so much impressed by the sincerity and earnestness of the commissioners, that he telegraphed Secretary Stanton: "I recognize the difficulties in the way of receiving these informal commissioners at this time, and do not know what to recommend. I am sorry, however, that Mr. Lincoln cannot have an interview with the two named in this dispatch (Stevens and Hunter), if not with all three now within our lines.

President Lincoln read the dispatch, and not knowing the instructions which Jefferson Davis had given his commissioners, telegraphed General Grant: "Say to the gentlemen I will meet them personally at Fortress Monroe."

It was midwinter, and Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward were in the cabin of the steamer *River Queen*, awaiting the arrival of the commissioners. Mr. Stevens was a man of small stature, and at the time was in poor health. He wore several overcoats, and when the commissioners came in, one by one Mr. Stevens laid aside the numerous overcoats in which he was wrapped.

As President Lincoln beheld the boyish-looking little man he said: "Seward, that is the largest shuckling for so small a nubbin that I ever saw."

After friendly greetings were passed and a pleasant

talk of old times, Mr. Stevens asked if there was any way in which peace and harmony could be restored.

"I know of but one way," Mr. Lincoln replied. "Those who are resisting the laws of the Union must cease their resistance."

"We have been induced to believe," said Mr. Stevens, "that both parties might cease present strife and take up a continental question, which would give time for their anger to cool."

President Lincoln in his reply referred to the letter he had written to Jefferson Davis, to the effect that he was "ready to receive any agent whom he or any other influential persons now resisting the national authority may informally send to me with the view of securing peace to the people of our common country." Then he added: "I was always willing to hear propositions for peace, on the conditions of this letter, and on no others. The restoration of the Union, is a *sine qua non* with me, and hence my instructions that no conference was to be held except on that basis."

Mr. Stevens then argued as best he could from his standpoint. Mr. Lincoln then replied: "I cannot entertain a proposition for an armistice on any terms while the vital question of reunion is undisposed of. That is the first question with me. I can enter into no treaty, convention, or stipulation or agreement with the Confederate States, jointly or separately, upon any subject but upon the basis first settled—that the Union

is to be restored. Any such agreement or stipulation would be a *quasi* recognition of the States then in arms against the National Government as a separate power. . . . Even if the Confederate States should entertain the proposition to return to the Union, I could not enter into any agreement in regard to reconstruction, or upon any other matters of that sort, while they have parties in arms against the Government."

"But," interposed Mr. Hunter, one of Mr. Davis's commissioners, "there are instances where a chief executive has entered into agreements even when there were parties in arms against acknowledged authority. Charles I., of England, did it."

"I do not profess to be posted in history," Mr. Lincoln replied. "On such matters I will turn you over to Mr. Seward. All that I distinctly recollect about Charles I. is that he lost his head."

The Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery was read.

"The slaves," said Mr. Hunter, "have always been accustomed to an overseer. If you suddenly free them on the basis of the Emancipation Proclamation, you will not only precipitate them, but the entire Southern people into irredeemable ruin."

"Mr. Hunter," the President replied, "you ought to know more about this matter than I, for you have always lived under the slave system. I can only say

that your statement brings to mind Farmer Case, out in Illinois, who undertook to raise a lot of hogs. It was no small job to find them. He had a large field of potatoes, and he concluded to turn the hogs loose and let them have full swing. It would save digging the potatoes. He was looking at the critters one day when a neighbor came along. 'Case,' he said, 'your hogs are doing well just now, but what will become of them when the ground freezes?' 'Well,' said Case, 'it may come rather hard on their snouts, but it will be root, hog, or die.'"

Nothing ever came of the interview described, more than for the first time to bring the officials of the Confederacy into direct communication with the President of the United States, and face to face with the terms on which they might expect peace.

THE GETTYSBURG DEDICATION.

On the 19th of November, 1863, the State of Pennsylvania having purchased a portion of the Gettysburg battlefield as a burial-place for the Union soldiers killed in that terrible battle, the grounds were dedicated with imposing ceremonies.

President Lincoln's Washington friends knew that he expected to attend the consecration ceremony. He said nothing about his expectancy of being called upon for any remarks on the occasion, and some of them strangely, as it may seem, were not a little solicitous lest the President might not prepare himself properly for the occasion. The first intimation by him to

the remarks he was to make was made the evening before when he inquired as to the program for the occasion before retiring for the night.

“The oration will be given by Mr. Everett,” said the gentleman who was to preside, “then I shall call upon the President of the United States for some remarks.”

“I supposed I might be expected to say something, and I shall have to put some stray thoughts together,” was President Lincoln’s reply.

That night in his chamber, after a tiresome journey from Washington, followed by an evening’s reception, his “stray thoughts” were written out.

One of the incidents of this memorable battle is told in Coffin’s “Life of Abraham Lincoln.”

On the morning of July 1st, when the brigade of General Wadsworth turned from Emmetsburg road by the house of Nicholas Codori, and marched across the fields, the soldiers saw a man with a gun running to join them. It was John Burns, a citizen, who stepped into the ranks of a Pennsylvania regiment, and, without waiting to be enrolled, went into the fight and was severely wounded.

“I should like to have Burns go with me to the dedication,” said Mr. Lincoln. The veteran came and accompanied the President to Cemetery Hill, which during the battle was swept by shot and shell from the Confederate artillery, and where forty Union cannon thundered defiance in the heat of the conflict.

Edward Everett was one of the most accomplished orators in the United States. His rhetoric was faultless and for two long hours he held the closet attention of an immense audience. Then President Lincoln was introduced, and stepping to the front of the platform, put his spectacles on his nose, took a sheet of paper from his pocket and read his immortal address.

The audience that just before had loudly applauded Mr. Everett was hushed as if a prayer or a benediction was falling upon them from the lips of the President. Eyes that were unaccustomed to weeping were filled with tears.

The President after the ceremonies were over took Mr. Everett by the hand and congratulated him in his own frank way. Mr. Everett replied: "Ah, Mr. President, how gladly would I exchange all my hundred pages to have been the author of your twenty lines."

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which

they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

FROM LINCOLN'S LAST INAUGURAL.

THERE are so many passages in Lincoln's speeches and letters that have attracted universal attention and admiration, that it is difficult to select those best adapted to our readers: but it is earnestly hoped that the words selected may lead many a reader to the study of that remarkable man who saved the Union in its greatest peril without loss or serious injury to its free institutions. The following selection is from his second inaugural address, delivered March 4, 1865, which was only a few weeks before his assassination:

The Almighty has his own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of its offenses! for it must needs be that offense come; but woe to the man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through his appointed time, he now

wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

GENERAL GRANT, at Vicksburg, was under Halleck, who disapproved of his conduct on technical grounds. Lincoln, irritated by the indecision of his generals, was urged to remove him, but his reply was, "I can't spare this man. He fights."

ON one occasion in a State paper Mr. Lincoln used the word "sugar-coated." Mr. Defrees, the public printer, said to the President, "would it not be better to use some other word a little more dignified than 'sugar-coated' in an important State paper which is to go down to all time?"

"Well, Defrees, if you think the time will ever come when the people will not understand what 'sugar-coated' means, I'll alter it; otherwise I think I'll let it go," said Mr. Lincoln, with good humor in every wrinkle of his face.

IN CONCLUSION.

MR. HENRY J. RAYMOND, of the New York Times, published a study of Lincoln's administration, in which he states that Lincoln in his State papers had a singular faculty for "putting things." He further continues in the following words :

"He has no pride of intellect, not the slightest desire for display, no thought or purpose but that of making everybody understand precisely what he means to say. It gives to his public papers a weight and influence with the mass of the people which no man of this country ever before attained. And this is heightened by the atmosphere of humor which seems to pervade his mind and which is just as natural to it and as attractive and softening a part of it as the smoky hues of Indian summer are of the charming season to which they belong."

A TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN.

NOR can it be said that this was owing to the tragic character of Lincoln's end. It is true, the death of this gentlest and most merciful of rulers by the hand of a mad fanatic was well apt to exalt him beyond his merits in the estimation of those who loved him, and to make his renown the object of peculiarly tender solicitude. But it is also true that the verdict pronounced upon him in those days has been affected little by time, and that historical inquiry has served rather to increase than to lessen the appreciation of his virtues, his abilities, his services. Giving the fullest measure of credit to his great ministers,—to Seward for his conduct of foreign affairs, to Chase for the management of the finances under terrible difficulties, to Stanton for the performance of his tremendous task as war secretary,—and readily acknowledging that without the skill and fortitude of the great commanders, and the heroism of the soldiers and sailors under them, success could not have been achieved, the historian still finds that Lincoln's judgment and will were by no means governed by those around him; that the most important steps were owing to his initiative; that his was the deciding and directing mind; and it was pre-eminently he whose sagacity and whose character enlisted for the administration in its struggles the countenance, the sympathy, and the support

of the people. It is found, even, that his judgment on military matters was astonishingly acute, and that the advice and instructions he gave to the generals commanding in the field would not seldom have done honor to the ablest of them. History, therefore, without overlooking, or palliating, or excusing any of his short comings or mistakes, continues to place him foremost among the saviors of the Union and the liberators of the slave. More than that, it awards to him the merit of having accomplished what but few political philosophers would have recognized as possible,—of leading the republic through four years of furious civil conflict without any serious detriment to its free institutions.

* * * * *

To the younger generation Abraham Lincoln has already become a half-mythical figure, which, in the haze of historic distance, grows to more and more heroic proportions, but also loses in distinctness of outline and feature. This is indeed the common lot of popular heroes; but the Lincoln legend will be more than ordinarily apt to become fanciful, as his individuality assembling seemingly incongruous qualities and forces in a character at the same time grand and most lovable, was so unique, and his career so abounding in startling contrast. As the state of society in which Abraham Lincoln grew up passes away, the world will read with increasing wonder of

the man who, not only of the humblest origin, but remaining the simplest and most unpretending of citizens, was raised to a position of power unprecedented in our history; who was the gentlest and most peace-loving of mortals, unable to see any creature suffer without a pang in his own breast, and suddenly found himself called to conduct the greatest and bloodiest of our wars; who wielded the power of government when stern resolution and relentless force were the order of the day, and then won and ruled the popular mind and heart by the tender sympathies of his nature; who was cautious, conservative by temperament and mental habit, and led the most sudden and sweeping social revolution of our time; who, preserving his homely speech and rustic manner even in the most conspicuous position of that period, drew upon himself the scoffs of polite society, and then thrilled the soul of mankind with utterances of wonderful beauty and grandeur; who, in his heart the best friend of the defeated South, was murdered because a crazy fanatic took him for its most cruel enemy; who, while in power, was beyond measure lampooned and maligned by sectional passion and an excited party spirit, and around whose bier friend and foe gathered to praise him—which they have since never ceased to do—as one of the greatest of Americans and the best of men.—*From Carl Schurz's Essay, "Abraham Lincoln."*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

I.

OH, slow to smite and swift to spare,
Gentle and merciful and just !
Who, in the fear of God, didst bear
The sword of power, a nation's trust !

II.

In sorrow by thy bier we stand,
Amid the awe that hushes all,
And speaks the anguish of a land
That shook with horror at thy fall.

III.

Thy task is done ; the bond are free :
We bear thee to an honored grave,
Whose proudest monument shall be
The broken fetters of the slave.

IV.

Pure was thy life ; its bloody close
Hath placed thee with the sons of light,
Among the noble host of those
Who perished in the cause of Right.

William Cullen Bryant.

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